

2/29/92 Howard, I've just made a broadcast to Los Angeles and, although it is after midnight, it leaves me wide awake. Just as it was to begin Cyril was on WTOP-TV, Washington. Heard the opening of the news, the summary, and it didn't mention his name but there was no doubt. So, I got the old machine fixed to catch the newscast and went to be at my phone for my own. There is a ham, but I've listened to Cyril. You can have a dub if you want it. Except as a horrible example of what to say in 1972 after seeing the autopsy materials, it is totally valueless. I have a different point in writing. I hope you can understand that the more my forecast is proven right and in the finest detail, the less cause for joy I feel. Here the point is another I made, that he wanted and should have no backgrounding, that he should go in, make a careful record of what he sees and restrict himself to what he sees, not what he wants to see or is told he should see. This reflects several possibilities. Cyril is no fool and as you can now see, I estimated him fairly accurately to this point. I think he well understands what he did see. Only he has yet to talk about it to anyone in public or for use. His is not because he didn't see and doesn't understand what he saw. In any event, the last thing he should have done, fresh from the evidentiary haberdashery, is reach for and wear that old hat. He made no mention of anything not known before I wrote the first book and not handled much better in it. Maybe some of the kids didn't know this, but everyone else did. And in a city like Washington, with so many influential people, so many opinion-formers, this was deadly. For the obvious interpretation is that nothing he saw changes anything and the Warren Report is correct. This is the way things work with sophisticated people. They ask themselves why. What else can they tell themselves? Now for a caution, because to date I have been so correct. Don't go overboard. His is not because I am some kind of genius. It is that I alone was in the position because everyone else was hungup or stupid, and these are not stupid people. There is nothing I have said, if you will but review it, that required any kind of genius or brilliance. It was disgustingly obvious and it is a strong indictment of the others, not some special credit to me. It was so obvious that you heard me, on the spur of the moment, tell Graham 8 months plus ago exactly the form his story would take when Cyril or any critic saw the stuff. Don't go overboard on me. Hold your nose, shake your head, do what you will, but consider the others, not me, for what I saw everyone should have with the slightest thought. There remains one question and then to bed (there are, of course, others). It is the old lawyers' question, cui bono? Any answers other than those of mine you know from the past? And I'll be interested in any reaction you get from the others. HW